

Rymer, Edwina

From: Honker, William
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 10:57 AM
To: Hosch, Claudia;Rawls, Maurice;Brown, James;Dellinger, Philip
Cc: Garcia, David
Subject: Fwd: Daily News Digest, Tuesday, May 5
Attachments: Daily News Digest 05052015.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Claudia/Maurice - see Cyndie Park item.

Jim/Phil - OK and RRC items

Bill Honker
Director, Water Quality Protection Division, EPA Region 6

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hubbard, Joseph" <Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov>
To: "R6 Daily News MailList" <R6_DailyNewsML@epa.gov>
Subject: Daily News Digest, Tuesday, May 5

1 – EPA says final decision on waste pits still a ways off, Baytown Sun, 5/3/2015
http://baytownsun.com/news/article_2970092a-f151-11e4-8e64-7b009612555e.html

In another effort to inform residents about the ongoing process of choosing a long-term solution to the San Jacinto Waste Pits superfund site, officials from the Environmental Protection Agency sounded like a broken record. A meeting at Martin L. Flukinger Community Center in Channelview, which lasted about an hour and a half, lacked any new information regarding the waste pits, in part because it was an open house for the EPA, TCEQ, Harris County and Texas DSHS to answer community concerns and questions.

2 – Family: Teens still critical 6 weeks after resort poisoning, KTBS, 5/4/2015
<http://www.ktbs.com/story/28971545/family-teens-still-critical-6-weeks-after-resort-poisoning>
Two Delaware teenagers sickened by a banned pesticide that was sprayed at the Caribbean resort where they were staying are still in critical condition more than six weeks later, their family said Monday. Sean and Ryan Esmond and their parents fell ill after an applicator working for Terminix used methyl bromide at the resort in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

3 – Shreveport to co-host ozone briefing, Shreveport Times, 5/4/2015
<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/2015/05/04/shreveport-epa-ozone-briefing/26894285/>
The City of Shreveport, Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce and AEP-SWEPCO will co-host a briefing by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality on ground-level ozone (smog). It will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Chamber's headquarters, located at 400 Edwards Street in Shreveport.

4 Cleaning the air remains a challenge, Chon, 5/4/2015
<http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Cleaning-the-air-remains-a-challenge-6241748.php>

The American Lung Association's annual "State of the Air Report" is out and Houston, while still experiencing days of unhealthy air, is getting better. What does that mean for us? If you remember what causes ozone (many of us know it as smog) - smokestacks, tailpipes, heat and sun - Houston has plenty of all these things, and reaching safe levels of ozone is a continual challenge. Generally, in the U.S., we have reduced ozone and particle pollution steadily in the past 16 years.

5 AMERICAN FORUM: The "buzz" about bees, The Journal, 5/4/2015

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/friendswood/opinion/american-forum-the-buzz-about-bees/article_3dca8928-18c5-5061-b2be-a22e1eed2756.html

Although the "buzz" about bee declines makes headlines, excites public concern and warrants a White House Task Force on the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, bees are still in jeopardy. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have failed to act with force on one of the key causes of pollinator declines: neonicotinoid pesticides.

6 – Study: Cutting carbon dioxide saves 3,500 US lives a year, Houston Chron, 4/5/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/05/barges_hit_sector_gate_damage.html#incart_river

The Obama Administration's hotly debated plan to reduce heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the nation's power plants will save about 3,500 lives a year by cutting back on other types of pollution as well, a new independent study concludes. A study from Harvard and Syracuse University calculates the decline in heart attacks and lung disease when soot and smog are reduced — an anticipated byproduct of the president's proposed power plant rule, which aims to fight global warming by limiting carbon dioxide emissions.

7 – PNM called SJGS owner of last resort, Fierce Energy, 5/4/2015

<http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/pnm-called-sjgs-owner-last-resort/2015-05-04>

PNM Resources' New Mexico electric utility, Public Service Co. of New Mexico (PNM), has filed final coal supply and participant restructuring agreements for San Juan Generating Station (SJGS) with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), as part of PNM's ongoing regulatory proceedings seeking NMPRC approval of the SJGS Plan settlement agreement filed in October 2014.

8 – US to evaluate cleanup of 16 abandoned uranium mines on Navajo Nation, EBR, 5/5/2015

<http://www.energy-business-review.com/news/us-to-evaluate-cleanup-of-16-abandoned-uranium-mines-on-navajo-nation-050515-4569122>

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has agreed to pay \$13.2m for cleanup evaluation of 16 abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation. The settlement agreement is part of the DOJ's focus on environmental and health issues in Indian country as well as the the government's commitment to resolve the grievances of American Indian tribes.

9 Project to bring surface water to Cyndie Park underway, Caller Times, 5/5/2015

http://www.caller.com/news/local-news/project-to-bring-surface-water-to-cyndie-park-underway_26117456

It started with stinky water. "People were complaining about the smell of the water, and just using it to water their yards and bathing," said Diana Levya, president of the Cyndie Park Water Supply Corp. Then the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality told residents who live in Cyndie Park I that their water was not only too dangerous to drink, but it was not safe to use for

any purpose because of high arsenic levels.

10 — Urban farms now produce 1/5 of the world's food, GreenBiz, 5/5/2015

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/urban-farms-now-produce-15-worlds-food>

Midway through spring, the nearly bare planting beds of Carolyn Leadley's Rising Pheasant Farms, in the Poletown neighborhood of Detroit, barely foreshadow the cornucopian abundance to come. It will be many months before Leadley is selling produce from this one-fifth-acre plot. But the affable young farmer has hardly been idle, even during the snowiest days of winter. Twice daily, she has been trekking from her house to a small greenhouse in her side yard, where she waves her watering wand over roughly 100 trays of sprouts, shoots and microgreens.

11 — StateImpact on OETA: Why State's Official Position on Earthquake Cause Matters, NPR, 5/4/2015

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/05/04/stateimpact-on-oeta-why-states-official-position-on-earthquake-cause-matters/>

The Oklahoma Geological Survey recently revised its formal position on Oklahoma's exponential surge in earthquake activity, acknowledging for the first time in a official public statement that most of the seismic activity recently recorded in the state was linked to oil and gas activity.

12-- "Denton Fracking Bill" Headed to Abbott's Desk, Texas Tribune, 5/4/2015

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/05/04/denton-fracking-bill-headed-abbotts-desk/>

The so-called Denton fracking bill is headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk. The Senate on Monday approved House Bill 40, which would pre-empt local efforts to regulate a wide variety of oil and gas activities and has stirred concerns in some towns that have sought to blunt the effects of drilling close to homes, schools and businesses.

13 County receives grant for Ebola preparedness, Victoria Advocate, 5/4/2015

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/may/04/county-receives-grant-for-ebola-preparedness/>

The Victoria County Commissioners accepted a \$21,160 grant Monday for the sheriff's office Ebola preparedness.

The money will be used for personal protective equipment and an ultraviolet light for disinfection, said Lisa Campbell, the interim Victoria City-County Health Department director.

14 It still doesn't do trains, but Texas Railroad Commission's name remains over EPA concerns, EE News, 5/4/2015

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060017883/search?keyword=texas>

Texas lawmakers remain hesitant to change the name of their top energy regulator, despite assurances that it won't upset the balance between state and federal agencies. Texas legislators have been debating a bill to change the name of the Railroad Commission, which has nothing to do with trains, to the Texas Energy Commission. But the bill was left pending in committee because of concerns that changing the name might void the agreements that let the state agency enforce federal environmental laws.

15 Fracking Chemicals Detected in Pennsylvania Drinking Water, NY Times, 5/4/2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/science/earth/fracking-chemicals-detected-in-pennsylvania-drinking-water.html?_r=0

An analysis of drinking water sampled from three homes in Bradford County, Pa., revealed traces of a compound commonly found in Marcellus Shale drilling fluids, according to a study published on Monday. The paper, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, addresses a longstanding question about potential risks to underground drinking water from the drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. The authors suggested a chain of events by which the drilling chemical ended up in a homeowner's water supply.

16 Oklahoma State University library wins excellence award, Beaumont Enterprise, 5/5/15
<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/business/energy/article/Oklahoma-State-University-library-wins-excellence-6242348.php>

The Oklahoma State University library is being honored for its series of Science Café programs on the oil and gas industry. The Edmon Low Library has won the American Library Association's 2015 Excellence in Library Programming Award. The award goes to a library that provides programs that encourage learning and awareness and have community impact.